

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A billiard cue comprising:
 a shaft formed of a material including fibers disposed in a binder, the shaft having a wall with an outer surface between a first tip end and a second end, ~~a bore extending from the first tip end for at least a predetermined distance along the length of the shaft toward the second end,~~ the shaft having a wall thickness of about 0.005 inches to about 0.050 inches between opposed first and second ends of the bore, ~~the bore means, extending from the first tip end for about 4 to 5 inches toward the second end, for~~ reducing the mass of the first tip end, the shaft material and the mass reducing means defining a stiffness to weight ratio that to minimize minimizes cue ball deflection on impact with the cue by allowing transverse deflection of the first tip end of the correlative to a cue ball.

2 (Cancelled)

3. The billiard cue of claim 2 wherein the fibers are carbon fibers disposed in an ~~expoxy~~ epoxy resin binder.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The billiard cue of claim 1 wherein:
 the shaft has a tip portion extending from the first tip end to an end spaced from the second end; and
 the bore extending from the first tip end only through the tip portion of the shaft, the bore ending at the end of the tip portion.

8. The billiard cue of claim 1 further comprising:
a lightweight, non-structural material disposed in at least a portion of
the bore.

9. (New) The billiard cue of claim 1 wherein the mass reducing
means comprises:
a bore.